



## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the California Medical Association

### AMA-ERF

**WOMAN POWER**—8,655 members *strong*—endlessly contributing time, energy and effort to AMA-ERF during the 1963-1964 fiscal year, culminated in the National Award at the AMA Convention in San Francisco June 23, 1964. California topped the nation with the highest total contribution of \$47,486.60, with special Certificates of Merit to the Forty-First Medical Society Auxiliary for its donation of \$12,804, and to the Los Angeles County Auxiliary for \$9,288.60, each in its respective county membership category. The Forty-First Auxiliary also received the Certificate of Achievement at the annual State Fall Conference, held in Coronado on September 30, 1964, not only for the largest contribution from any county in the state and the nation, but for a 653 per cent increase over last year, and \$27.42 per capita for its 467 members. Second place awards were also presented to Los Angeles County for their contribution of \$9,288.60, Butte-Glenn for a 340 per cent increase over last year, and Tulare County for \$15.40 per member.

Many inquiries have been directed to me as to how we generate so much enthusiasm in our state for the AMA-ERF project. Frequently, I compare my duties, and the duties of the 35 county chairmen to those of salesmen, for we are selling a product. Is there a better investment in America today than the future of our young men and women who can pave the way to the private practice of medicine and research under a free enterprise and not governmental control? The greatest danger is that freedom can be nibbled away because each decision turned over to the government is one less decision which may be made by the individual. As Dr. Edward Annis has repeatedly pointed out, we in medicine are directly threatened by certain trends and proposals, but eventually all Americans will have to face up to the old question—for whom does the bell toll? By selling our product, we are communicating not only with the members of our profession but with the friends of medicine who are increasingly becoming aware that we must fight for our political, economic and professional freedoms not only in

medicine but in industry, business and labor. The woman's auxiliaries to the AMA and CMA endeavor to explain and interpret to individuals and groups across the nation, the following current six projects of the AMA-ERF:

1. *Funds for Medical Schools.* Physicians contribute to medical schools through the Foundation in two ways. Some designate a specific school to receive their donations. Others donate to medical education in general. In the latter case, funds are distributed equally among the country's AMA-approved medical schools. Since 1952, physicians have contributed \$14.1 million through the Foundation. Since 1955, the entire physician population has contributed an additional \$31.6 million directly to the schools.

2. *Medical Education Loan Guarantee Program.* To assist young people in the financial aspects of their training, the AMA in 1962 launched its Medical Education Loan Guarantee Program. The program is designed as a source of financial assistance to medical students or MDs in internship or residency training who are in good academic standing and demonstrate a need for such assistance. Through 1963, 11,875 loans totalling \$13.7 million had been made to 8,430 individuals—students in 85 medical schools and interns and residents in 583 hospitals.

3. *Research Grants.* This is a program of monetary assistance to qualified research workers for the purchase of supplies, chemicals, drugs, experimental animals, laboratory equipment and other items needed in their work. The program provides a quick source of funds for completion of smaller research projects, many of which are a prerequisite to large significant studies.

4. *Fellowship Program in Medical Journalism.* Financial grants are made to medical students and physicians interested in careers in medical writing and medical journalism. The Foundation program, through practical on-the-job training, helps to meet the critical need for highly trained writers and editors of medical periodicals, textbooks and monographs.

5. *Institute for Biomedical Research.* Beginning in 1965, the Institute will engage in a program of basic research centered on the discovery and under-

standing of molecular events with the living cell.

6. *Committee for Research on Tobacco and Health.* This committee has undertaken a scientific research study to determine how tobacco smoke affects health.

Funds for Medical Schools, and the Medical Education Loan Guarantee Program are the Auxiliary's main priority projects. Research Grants, Fellowship Program in Medical Journalism, Institute for Biomedical Research and the Committee for Research on Tobacco and Health are still in the infancy stage.

The annual reports from the county chairmen of AMA-ERF indicated that the following projects for raising money were considered the most successful: Chapeau Exchange, Cookbook Project, Cookie-Mix Project, Fashion Show and Luncheons, White Elephant Christmas Party, Sale of Beeswax Candles, Rummage Sale, Christmas Candy Sale, Magazine Agency, Baby Photo Sales in Hospitals, Thrift Shop,

Dinner Dances, Barbeques, Bridge Marathon, Bowling, Art Exhibit, and the Christmas Card Project. The AMA-ERF notepaper and the playing cards continue to bring in a good revenue from all of the counties.

The combined forces of the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association contributed an all-time high of \$307,318.14 to Medical Education and Research. In California our record of \$47,486.60 speaks for itself. We are not just another social organization but partners in medicine as well as marriage. We are assisting in creating a better world by providing good medical leadership so we can preserve our freedom and our traditional way of life.

Doctor, help yourself by helping us on our fund-raising projects or contribute to the medical school of your choice through AMA-ERF.

MRS. WARREN GOUX

*AMA-ERF Chairman, W.A.C.M.A.*

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## Physicians' Benevolence

PHYSICIANS' Benevolence Fund, Inc., continues to grow in providing needed aid for physicians or their families in pecuniary distress.

This fund has now operated for more than 24 years and has been able to help out in a number of cases of real need. At present more widows and their children are being aided than physicians.

The fund is not set up as a retirement program nor as an insurance plan. It is intended to serve as a temporary source of help to take up the slack when a family is in need and to help a physician's family to reestablish itself in a community. In addition, funds are budgeted each year to help maintain a retirement home as well as a facility at the home to provide for sanitarium care. This gracious and dignified home is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Physicians' Aid Association.

The operations committee for Physicians' Benevolence is made up of a group of dedicated California Medical Association members; the funds are administered by the Council, and all operating details are handled by the California Medical Association staff. The cost of operating this fund is a single item—a modest yearly audit fee.

The procedure for applying for aid under Physi-

cians' Benevolence is quite simple. Any case of financial need discovered by any County Society is reported to Mr. John Hunton, Executive Secretary of the California Medical Association, and a brief questionnaire is then sent to the physician or Auxiliary member who is most familiar with the problem and can tactfully provide the facts in the case. The completed form and an authorization request are then forwarded to the operation committee. As soon as the authorization is approved, a check is mailed from the California Medical Association office. In case of emergency, funds can be made available before the investigation.

The goal of the Physicians' Benevolence Fund is to become self-supporting. Financing of the fund comes from the allocation of one dollar from the annual dues of each CMA member, together with contributions from the Woman's Auxiliary and from earnings on investments.

We of the Woman's Auxiliary pledge our continued support and willingness to participate in this most wonderful plan, and our thanks go to the members of the operating committee for their unselfish devotion to this charitable enterprise. This year we hope to have a 100 per cent "one dollar per Auxiliary member" sum as well as a sizable interest displayed in this unusually worthwhile and heart-warming program.

MRS. DANIEL W. ABELS

*Chairman,*

*Physicians' Benevolence*